IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~medical~~ guide wire ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted, to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion side to the distal end portion side of the guide wire body; and ~~serving to guide an appliance to be inserted into the human body in an insertion operation, the medical guide wire comprising:~~

~~a fixing portion formed of a substantially wire-shaped retainer having one end coupled to the distal end portion side of said guide wire body and the other end extending to the proximal end portion side of said guide wire body and used to fix the position of said medical guide wire by means of said retainer lest the position of said medical guide wire relative to said endoscope change.~~

a retainer extended along the guide wire body, the retainer having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retainer being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer being retained by an operator, the retainer being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance,

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion side of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said retainer is ~~formed of~~ a retaining wire ~~of a resin, a metal, or a metal coated with a resin having a stiffness high enough not to be intertwined with said guide wire~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said retaining wire is a resin, a metal or a metal coated with a resin having a stiffness high enough not to be intertwined with said wire ~~which comprises a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body serving to guide an appliance to be inserted into the human body in an insertion operation, the medical guide wire comprising:~~

~~a retaining wire located parallel to said guide wire body, one end of the retaining wire being connected to the distal end of said guide wire body or a portion near the distal end and the other end extending close to the hand-side end of said guide wire body~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein said retaining wire has a separable junction with said guide wire body.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[4]], wherein said guide wire body is provided with a soft coupling member of an elastic material formed on the distal end portion thereof, the distal end portion of said retaining wire being removably coupled to the coupling member.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the respective sectional shapes of said guide wire body and said retaining wire form a substantially circular shape when the sectional shapes are joined together as the two are arranged side by side.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 6, wherein said retaining wire is an arcuate wire having a substantially crescent sectional shape.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein said guide wire body and the retaining wire are provided with insulating coating layers, individually.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein said retaining wire is a ribbon-shaped wire having a substantially flat sectional shape.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is provided with a retaining portion having a diameter larger than that of any other portion.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is held by means of a wire fixing portion attached to said endoscope.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is held by means of a wire fixing portion attached to an operating section of said endoscope.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the length of said retaining wire is adjusted to 1,000 mm to 2,000 mm.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A medical~~ The guide wire according to claim 2 [[3]], wherein the length of said guide wire body is adjusted to 3,500 mm or less.

15. (Currently Amended) An endoscope using a ~~medical~~ guide wire, comprising:

an endoscope body having an appliance passage channel;

a guide wire ~~body~~ to be passed through said channel, the guide wire comprising; ~~the guide wire body serving to guide an appliance to be inserted into the human body in an insertion operation; and~~

a guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and being inserted into a human body through the channel, the guide wire body being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion side to the distal end portion side of the guide wire body, and

a retaining wire ~~located parallel to~~ extended along said guide wire body, ~~one end of the retaining wire being connected to the distal end of said guide wire body or a portion near the distal end and the other end extending close to the hand side end of said guide wire body;~~

the retaining wire having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retaining wire being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retaining wire being retained by an operator, the retaining wire being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance;

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion side of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retaining

wire is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted;

~~said endoscope body having~~ a wire fixing portion provided on the endoscope body, for holding the proximal end portion of said retaining wire.

16. (Original) An endoscope according to claim 15, wherein said wire fixing portion is located on an operating section of said endoscope body.

Claims 17-53 (Cancelled)